

Remarks

Reconsideration of this Application is respectfully requested.

Upon entry of the foregoing amendment, claims 2-16 and 19-33 are pending in this application, with claims 2, 3, 7, 12, 15, 19, 20, 24, 29 and 32 being the independent claims. Claims 2, 3, 7, 8, 9, 12, 15, 19, 20, 24, 25, 26, 29 and 32 are amended. Claims 1, 17, 18 and 34 were previously canceled.

In the Office Action dated February 16, 2005, claims 2-16 and 19-33 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being allegedly unpatentable over Muzio et al., U.S. Published Application No. 2002/0155359 in view of Kazuo, JP 11-044947.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

All of the pending claims stand rejected based on a combination of Muzio, et al., U.S. Patent Publication No. 2002/0155359 in combination with Kazuo, JP 11-044947. A number of pending independent claims have been amended to recite that the high Hc coating has a **thickness of less than one micron**. Support for the language of the amendment may be found, for example, in paragraph 0061 of the present application. At least this aspect is not taught or suggested in Kazuo. Applicant respectfully invites the Examiner's attention to paragraph 29 on page 4 of Kazuo, which specifies a **thickness of dozens of microns** (in other words, relatively thick magnetic films). Thus, at least for this reason, claims 2, 3, 7, 12, 15, 19, 20, 24, 29, 32 and their dependent claims, are allowable over any combination of Muzio and Kazuo.

Claims 9 and 26 have been rewritten in independent form. These claims recite the aspect of the high Hc coating having a **high spatial frequency pattern**. This aspect is not taught or suggested in either cited reference. Accordingly, these claims are believed to be allowable as well.

Conclusion

All of the stated grounds of objection and rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicant therefore respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider all presently outstanding objections and rejections and that they be withdrawn. Applicant believes that a full and complete reply has been made to the

outstanding Office Action and, as such, the present application is in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number provided.

Prompt and favorable consideration of this Amendment and Reply is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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